

Our Mission

Connecting You
to a
World of Information

Our Vision

Serve as a network of vital
community centers that provide
resources to educate, inform
and entertain

ST. CLAIR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- District 1: David C. Whipple
- District 2: Arlene M. Marcetti (Vice-Chairperson)
- District 3: Kathleen J. Wheelihan (Chairperson)
- District 4: Laurie Crisenbery
- District 5: Harold C. Tiburzi

DIRECTOR ST. CLAIR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Allison Arnold, MLIS

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

- Melba Moss, Public Service Coordinator
- Jim Stoutmeyer, Administrative Service Coordinator
- Mike Mercatante, Community Relations & Friend Development Coordinator

LEAD LIBRARIANS

- Youth Services: Janet Rose
- Circulation Services: Anne Marie Bedard
- Reference Services: Barb King
- Technical Services: Angela Klocek

BRANCH LEADS

- Algonac-Clay: Scott Nichols
- Burtchville Twp.: Jane Fortushniak
- Capac: Nancy Godinez
- G. Lynn Campbell: Jenna Reed
- Ira Twp.: Gary Kupper
- Marine City: Lois Kaufman
- Marysville: Laura Prater
- Memphis: Andrew Webb
- St. Clair: Julie Alef
- Yale: Lori Herrington

Community

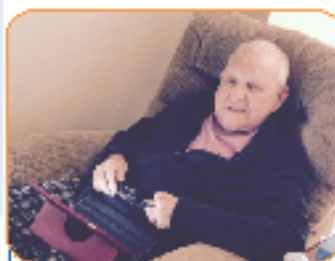


Going blind at the age of 56 changed my life, as it would anyone's. For me it meant

losing my job, my home, and my marriage because of the difficult circumstances that occurred when I became blind. To say I felt lost is an understatement.

Two years later, I am slowly adapting to my disability. Much help came through the Library of Congress and the Talking Book program. Also, at the Capac branch my sister received a book titled *The Directory of Visually Impaired Services*. This book lists services available throughout Michigan, which have helped me out greatly. One resource is the Detroit Radio Information Services through Wayne State University, where they read you the newspaper throughout the day. Another is the Blind and Low Vision Group of St. Clair County, to keep us all informed about the latest resources, gadgets, and technology available for the blind and visually impaired. I also found the Michigan Commission for the Blind, which offers an 8-week program to teach blind people how to live independent lives. All this and so much more was found in this booklet my sister received for free at the Capac branch of the St. Clair County Library System.

The library's assistance has offered wonderful services and experiences that are continuing to help me through a very difficult time. *Tom, Capac*



We have a patron named Charles Nichols, 92, who unfortunately is unable to come to the library. His daughter-in-law asked if there was a way he could still receive library materials.

We told her about our Home Connections program, which offers postal delivery of print and audio books to homebound patrons. When we found out that Charles had an iPad, we suggested he also try out our eBook and digital audiobook collection through OverDrive. We helped his daughter-in-law set up his iPad and took her through the steps of downloading an eBook. To our delight, we received word that Charles quickly got the hang of how to use the OverDrive app without any assistance. He said it was amazing how this technology allowed the library to come to him when he couldn't go there. He now has the knowledge and skills to access reading materials from the library right from his home. *Algonac-Clay Branch Staff*

Connections



The Marine City branch received a request for help from Faith Cannon in Burke, Virginia. Faith lived in Marine City with her family during World War II. She asked for any information about the neighborhood she'd lived in, or photographs of employees of the Detroit Gasket Company where her grandmother had worked. The Detroit Gasket Company was located in the field behind the present location of the library.

Based on photographs of the neighborhood that Faith sent, library staff and a local historical society member were able to determine that she had lived in the Lester House. The Lester House belonged to a prominent figure in the history of Marine City, David Lester. During the war, the house, located on the corner of South Main and St. Clair Street, was turned into apartments, which is where Faith and her family had lived. Eileen Stier, Library Branch Assistant, took a photo of the house and sent it to Faith so she could see what it looks like now. The Marine City Library owns several copies of a monthly paper, *Victory DiGest*, that was published by the Detroit Gasket Company. Eileen found a large photo taken at a company Christmas party and forwarded that to Faith as well.

Faith was grateful for the research and photos, and she shared the information with family members.

Marine City Branch Staff

"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library" Albert Einstein

One of our teen patrons, Ava Stoneberg, 14, received a challenge last summer from a family friend: give up drinking pop. If she could go through the entire summer without drinking pop, he would give her \$500.00 to donate to her favorite organization. She worked hard all summer and won the challenge. Ava chose the St. Clair County Library System as the recipient of her donation; she and her family use the library frequently to check out materials. She presented a check to Janet Rose, Youth Services Librarian, on November 14, 2014, and her winnings went to the Library Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. Thank you Ava for supporting your library! *Janet Rose, Main Library*



From The Director...

Thank you! On behalf of myself and the whole staff of the St. Clair County Library System, thank you! Thank you for the resounding support of our county-wide library system by passing the library



millage and showing how important this institution is to all of us. I am grateful, not just as the director of the library, but as a parent and resident of St. Clair County, to live in an area that sees and values the benefits that the library brings. A healthy library is one of the cornerstones in a healthy community.

The year 2014 was an extraordinarily busy one for the St. Clair County Library System. That's good. We like to be busy - the more you use our services, the greater the return on your investment. That's value.

While we continued to provide excellent library service on a daily basis, we also reached out and listened to you. We gathered input from a wide range of community members to develop our Five Year Strategic Plan (see p. 4). This plan is a map for your library's future and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to improving current service as well as anticipating future demand. As times change, we want your libraries to stay current and relevant.

What can you expect from your library?

- Free library programs that provide learning opportunities and entertainment for everyone in our community.
- Books and digital resources that support educational goals from early literacy through lifelong learning.
- Music, movies, magazines, audiobooks, eBooks, and many other kinds of material available for you to check out.
- Library collections from 11 different local branch libraries that represent the diversity of people, cultures, and the faraway places that make up the world around us.
- Protection of everyone's rights by proactively supporting equitable access and intellectual freedom.

It was a busy 2014 and 2015 looks to be an even busier year. I look forward to the next few years with a sense of pride in what your library will accomplish through collaboration, innovation, creativity, and hard work. I hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,

Director
St. Clair County Library System

5 Year Strategic Plan

The strategic master plan sets up a responsible and innovative model for how the St. Clair County Library System can best serve the citizens of St. Clair County from 2015-2020. The actions recommended in this plan will be put into place over the next five years. The strategic plan is the result of many months of discussion among people who are dedicated to library services for county residents.

The goals put forth in this plan are based on the following: information about the existing library system; current and expected trends in the population and the economy in St. Clair County; and input and suggestions from library patrons, library employees, and the general public.

The purpose of the plan is to serve as a roadmap for improving the St. Clair County Library System to better meet the needs of library users, to attract new users, and to promote the library as an important part of St. Clair County's quality of life. The plan will be the basis for policy-making, programs, and projects over the next five years. Library administration, under the direction of the library board, will regularly review the plan to determine any changes or adjustments that need to be made, and will consult the plan when creating yearly budgets.

Goal 1: Creative And Inspiring Presence

Create a physical and virtual presence that is stimulating, welcoming and inspirational.

Goal 2: Community Partnerships

Enhance the St. Clair County Library System's role in improving the quality of life by developing relationships with existing and new stakeholders and encouraging participation in library programs and services.

Goal 3: Innovation

Reinvent the St. Clair County Library System by fostering a culture of innovation.

Goal 4: Financial Stability

Ensure financial stability for continuation of quality library services.

Goal 5: Promotion Of Services

Vigorously market library services, programs and resources to ensure the library system is known throughout St. Clair County as THE provider of quality information.

Goal 6: Redesign Of Physical Space

Space in St. Clair County Library buildings will be studied and redesigned to better serve patrons' needs.

Goal 7: Positive Environment

The St. Clair County Library will provide a positive environment for library patrons and staff.

Goal 8: Services Assessment And Improvement

The St. Clair County Library will assess four services for improvement each year.

This five-year strategic plan focuses on improving services and increasing access to information for all St. Clair County residents and visitors.

by the numbers

Class 6 Michigan Library Expenditures	
Average Per Capita	\$40.35
St. Clair County Library System	\$31.59

Overdrive Electronic Titles added in 2014		
eBooks:	528	Total: 2,330
eAudio:	187	Total: 887
eTitles checked out in 2014: 30,687		

Items	2014	
	Circulation	Collection Size
Books	449,797	385,816
Magazines	45,974	23,102
Books On CD	55,595	16,264
DVDs	127,405	49,433
Music CDs	41,455	23,928
Total	720,226	498,543

Over 275 magazine titles are available for download. Patrons downloaded over 5,400 magazines last year.

The Library's whole collection was checked out 1.5 times.



"I love Strawberry Shortcake movies, storytime and the fish tank."
Emily, Kenosha

As far as I'm concerned, the most reliable indicator of a community's health and quality of life is seen in its libraries.
Joe Eckert, Port Huron



Staff answered over 56,000 patron questions in 2014.



Over 600,000 patrons visited the St. Clair County Library System last year.

The kids & I have decided that our goal this summer is to make it to each one of the branches! Each library is such an important part of its town.
Sarah Maul, North Street

More than 24,000 patrons enjoyed over 2,000 exciting and informative programs for children, teens, adults & families in 2014.



Over 8,700 patrons participated in last year's Summer Reading Program.

Your library system has offered free computer classes since 2000. 1,400 patrons attended more than 200 computer classes in 2014.

Over 30 online subscription databases for research and educational use were accessed 46,500 times.



Thanks for all the adventures you allow us to take!
Library patron, Marysville

Our patrons accessed the library's free wireless network over 20,000 times last year.



In 2014, patrons logged 144,535 hours on public computers.

"The resources and personnel of the library helped me recently find employment."
Army Veteran Matt, Port Huron

Community Centers

The library staff takes pride in services and materials provided to our library patrons and communities. Your support makes it possible for us to connect you to a world of information 24/7.

Algonac-Clay Branch: The branch received a painting makeover along with new wall signage. Decorative ceiling tiles have been placed in the computer lab and children's area.



Burtchville Twp. Branch: Small book carts and portable shelving units have been placed at the ends of the shelving ranges to make room for large displays.

Capac Branch: The expansion into the adjacent building is almost complete. It will house young adult and non-fiction materials along with Wi-Fi seating and a makerspace area.



G. Lynn Campbell Branch: The library's interior recently received a fresh coat of paint.



Ira Twp. Branch: The new addition will house the adult book collection along with an area for programs.

Main Library: The computer lab and meeting room, along with the second floor, have been freshly painted.

Marine City Branch: The planting of seven trees for the beautification of the library grounds was made possible by generous donations given in memory of devoted patrons.



Marysville Branch: Phase II of the ongoing wildlife mural has been completed. Phase III will begin soon.



Memphis Branch: The Memphis Branch was selected to host the Detroit Institute Of Arts' Inside/Out Program.

St. Clair Branch: Thanks to a donation from the local Ford dealership, the whimsical bike rack is bright, shiny and colorful again!



Yale Branch: A custom closet was designed and installed in the library's meeting room to increase storage space.

For 14 years, library staff and patrons have come together to help people in our communities stay warm during the winter. 2014 proved to be the best year yet with over 2,800 items collected and distributed to 24 organizations.



Library Director Allison Arnold was presented the Family Friendly Business Award from the Great Start Parent Coalition (St. Clair County RESA). The Main Library's Children Department was chosen for their dedication to provide a family-friendly environment for young children and families.



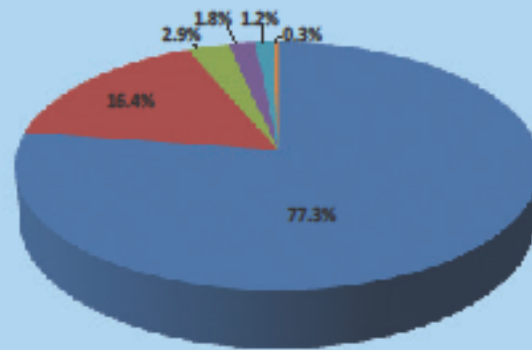
The library system was a recipient of the St. Clair County Community Mental Health's Gift Of Knowledge. Through generous donations, SCCCMH donated 23 books to the library's collection.

**Thank You 2014 Donors
Library Endowment Fund
Community Foundation Of St. Clair Co.**

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Catlos Mrs. Patricia Closs
Mr. & Mrs. James Chubb Mr. Roy Klecha, Jr.
Mr. Jeffrey Koopman Ms. Theresa Miller
Friends of the St. Clair Co. Library

Current Fund Balance: \$226,204.19

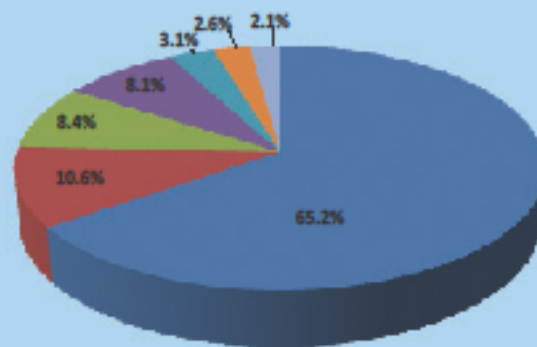
2014 Revenue



Property Tax/Millage	\$3,796,372	Charges For Services	\$90,570
Fines & Penal Fines	\$804,228	Interest & DVD Rentals	\$59,979
State/Local Aid	\$143,848	Donations & Other	\$15,620

Financials

2014 Expenditures



Personnel	\$3,071,545	Local Unit Reimburse.	\$146,530
Library Material	\$499,099	Capital Outlay	\$121,045
County Appropriation	\$396,269	Supplies	\$ 96,993
Services	\$381,941		

“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.” *Walter Cronkite*



St. Clair County Library System
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI 48060
(877) 987.7323

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Progress Report 2015

ST. CLAIR COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
11 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

MAIN LIBRARY

210 McMorran Blvd. • Port Huron • (877) 987.7323

ALGONAC-CLAY TWP. BRANCH

2011 St. Clair River Dr. • Algonac • (810) 794.4471

BURTCHVILLE TWP. BRANCH

7093 Second St. • Lakeport • (810) 385.8550

CAPAC BRANCH

111 N. Main • Capac • (810) 395.7000

IRA TWP. BRANCH

7013 Meldrum Rd. • Fair Haven • (586) 725.9081

G. LYNN CAMPBELL BRANCH

1955 N. Allen Rd. • Kimball • (810) 982.9171

MARINE CITY BRANCH

300 S. Parker St. • Marine City • (810) 765.5233

MARYSVILLE BRANCH

1175 Delaware • Marysville • (810) 364.9493

MEMPHIS BRANCH

34830 Potter St. • Memphis • (810) 392.2980

ST. CLAIR BRANCH

310 S. Second St. • St. Clair • (810) 329.3951

YALE BRANCH

2 Jones St. • Yale • (810) 387.2940



FACEBOOK

Keyword Search: St. Clair
County Library System

*Progress Report compiled & designed
by the Library's Community Relations
Department.*

www.stclaircountylibrary.org